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1962/11/30

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REVIEWED by *[Signature]* DATE *1/19*

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

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 FOIA or PA EXEMPTION: (b) (1)

Date: November 30, 1962

() CLASSIFY as () authority to:

Participants: Anastas Mikoyan and invited guests (including Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall), OADR

RABEX

Disarmament. In response to a comment by Walter HELLER, MIKOYAN expressed the view that he did not feel the U.S. economy would suffer as a result of disarmament. Individual firms would experience difficulties, but some of the money saved on military expenditures could be used to compensate these companies for their costs in converting to peaceful production. The ~~main~~ net effect of disarmament on the American economy would be to increase output for peaceful uses. He did not agree with "some Marxists" who say that capitalism must necessarily experience a recession or economic crisis if military contracts were taken away from producers. He cited Japan as the best example of this, since Japan has a flourishing capitalist economy with relatively small expenditures on defense.

Castro. Castro is a unique person, thought MIKOYAN. He eats at regular intervals, usually twice a day. Once MIKOYAN was riding with him, and after a few hours of travel asked Castro when they would have lunch. ~~MM~~ Castro replied that they had had breakfast, and the next scheduled meal would be at 6:00 p.m. MIKOYAN told him that he should not expect a guest to adjust to such "local customs."

MIKOYAN mentioned that Castro drinks no alcoholic beverages. He sleeps only a few hours a night. He is constantly among people. He moves about a great deal, bestowing affection on children, mingling with workers, women, students, and "every element of society. Often he sleeps comfortably /possibly, most comfortably/ in a moving car.

"Fidel is divorced from his wife" but his brother Raul has a fine wife and two children. "The last time I saw Raul's wife, she was pregnant with the first child--now they have two. They decided not to have any children until the revolution was won. Now they have one almost every year."

"The first time I was in Cuba and met Fidel, he told me he was a revolutionary, but he knew very little of Marxism, although his brother Raul is a Marxist. I would never have predicted that he would become a Marxist so soon--within two years."

Undersecretary BALL interjected a reference at this point to Castro's statement that he had always been a Marxist. MIKOYAN replied that he could think of no such statement, and disputed the fact that Castro had always been

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a Marxist.

Mr. DRYFOOS said, "If I may ask one serious question, now that a socialist state exists in the Western Hemisphere, do you think Castro will be able to live together with the ~~ENEMY~~ Colossus of the North?"

MIKOYAN: "I should say that he certainly could. Castro is a very intelligent person." MIKOYAN went on to speak of Castro's proposal for a rapprochement with the United States. The U.S. has lifted its military blockade, but still maintains its economic blockade. Castro has proposed that it be lifted and trade resumed. MIKOYAN rejected the notion that the worse relations became between Cuba and the U.S., the better it would be for the Russians. He said the Russians are in favor of the best possible relations between Cuba and the U.S. But the United States can get along with Cuba only if it "does not offend Castro's dignity and pride." Castro is "a very sensitive person."

As MIKOYAN was preparing to leave, Mr. HELLER took him slightly to one side and asked, "Did you like Castro personally? If I may ask a personal question, did you find him an attractive person?"

MIKOYAN's answer was emphatic. "I liked him very much. He is unique. He is a man seized with ideas. It's a sort of ecstasy with him, or a religious kind of feeling. Sometimes when I was with him he would forget to offer me food and drink; he would forget his role as host. But I found him attractive and a person who commands respect."

Invitation. Mr. HELLER expressed an interest in pursuing the theme of disarmament economics. MIKOYAN told him that he should come to the Soviet Union for a long discussion on this subject. "I invite you. If you come we can show you whatever you are interested in relating to economics."

REPRODUCED

The Cuban Muscle Cramps Revisited

UH 2005

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The Cuban Missile Crisis Revisited: An International Collection of Documents, from the Bay of Pigs to the Brink of Nuclear War

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The Cuban Missile Crisis Revisited: An International Collection of Documents, from the Bay of Pigs to the Brink of Nuclear War reproduces a comprehensive collection of records from the archives of the three key governments involved in the most dangerous confrontation of the Cold war. Declassified records from the United States, Russia and Cuba significantly advance analysis of the historical foundations of the missile crisis, the policy calculations and considerations of President John F. Kennedy and premiers Nikita Khrushchev and Fidel Castro, and the overt and covert military and paramilitary operations that combined to bring the world to the threshold of a nuclear exchange. Topics extensively covered in the documentation include the failed U.S.-led invasion at the Bay of Pigs, renewed attempts to overthrow Castro through Operation Mongoose and Operation Northwoods, U.S. military contingency planning for conflict with Cuba, naval warfare, Soviet and Cuban decision making and communications during the crisis, and the repercussions for U.S.-Soviet relations, and Soviet-Cuban relations in its aftermath. Materials were identified, obtained, assembled and indexed by the National Security Archive, a non-profit Washington D.C. based research institute and library. The microfiche collection is accompanied by a printed guide and index.

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